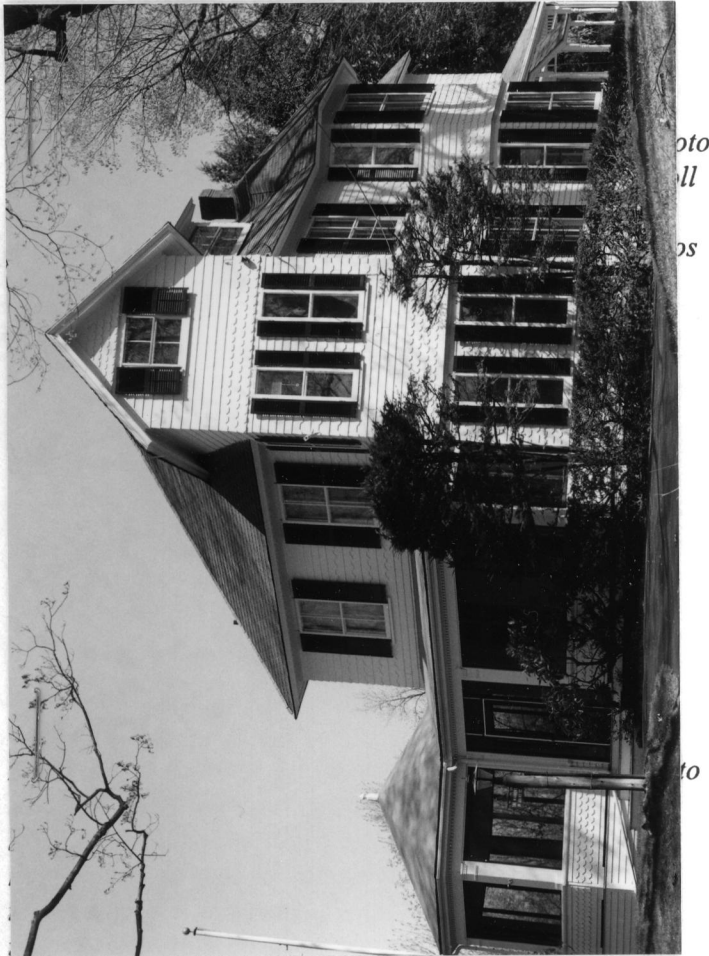


FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) January 1998

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

0063000116

Boston N.

703

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 39 Adams St.

Historic Name Chapman/Johnson/Porter/Warren House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1884

Source Lexington Minute-man

Style/Form Queen Anne

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood clapboard and shingle

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage almost 2 A.

Setting On a heavily-trafficked residential street in a neighborhood of 19th- and early 20th-century houses with later 20th-century infill

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

39 Adams St. is one of the most intact patterned-shingled Queen Anne houses in Lexington. It is essentially square with several projecting bays and a rectangular rear ell. Hip-roofed (the rear ell is gable-roofed) and 2½ stories in height, the house has two ridge chimneys, one at the intersection of the main house and the ell and the other in the ell. The entire house is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with wood clapboards broken by bands of octagonal wood shingles, and roofed with asphalt shingles. The main entry, on the facade, has transom lights and the windows are 1/1 or 2/2 double hung sash. The main block has a canted gabled-roofed 2½-story bay on the front and two-story hip-roofed bays and shed dormers on the side elevations. A screen porch extends across the facade; it has a dentil course at the cornice and a doorway flanked by pilasters. At its north end is a projecting octagonal corner porch with a peaked roof surmounted by a simple finial. A rear entrance, on the south side of the ell, has a porch with turned posts and a spindle frieze. The two-car garage is front-gabled, on a cement foundation, and clad with wood drop siding.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house was built in 1884 by George F. Chapman, who owned a 31-acre farm at the corner of Adams and East streets. The farmhouse had formerly been the house now at 43 Adams St. (MHC #706), but after Chapman built this house it became the main farmhouse and the one at 43 Adams St. was probably rented out. In 1893 Chapman's widow sold the farm to William Prior, a fish dealer at Quincy Market in Boston, and at that time 5½ acres containing this house was set off as a separate parcel and sold to Prior's wife, Edna. The Priors lived in this house until 1896 when Edna Prior, by then a widow, sold both the 25½ remaining acres of the farm at 43 Adams St. and the 5½ parcel on which this house is located to Irving Johnson of Arlington. The Johnsons were market gardeners, or truck farmers; Irving Johnson lived in this house and his son Frederick W. lived in the house at 43 Adams St. After Irving Johnson's death in 1917, the Johnsons sold the property to the William B. Porter family—the farm in 1922 and this house in 1924. The Porters lived in this house and brother-in-law Matthew Wilson, who was a partner in the farm, lived at 43 Adams. This house remained associated with the farm until it was subdivided after World War II; in 1948 this house was sold to Carlton Warren, who owned it for the next 50 years before selling it to a developer in 1998.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

May Baskin, personal communication 1998.

Lexington Directory, 1887, 1894, 1899.

Lexington Minute-man, 24 April 1884.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 2244: 247; 2505: 152, 156; 4512: 326; 4745: 216; 7310: 424.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form*